

CITY OF SAINT PAUL

Christopher B. Coleman, Mayor

John Maczko, City Engineer 1500 City Hall Annex 25 W. Fourth Street Saint Paul MN 55102

September 12, 2011

Dear Interested Jefferson Avenue Bikeway Resident:

The purpose of this upcoming meeting (details on other side of this page) is to clarify the project and to provide information/clarification regarding the status of the Jefferson project that was approved by City Council last year. During the Council approval process, Council left the traffic diverter to be placed at Cleveland and Jefferson as undecided with a decision to be made after testing.

In late June, after careful review and consideration, Public Works came to a decision to recommend to Council that the diverter be installed as the best remaining available option. When the decision was made public in late July, there were concerns that Public Works was trying to force this project through, particularly since there had been no community correspondence since January. There were other comments/accusations by concerned residents that led people to lose trust in the process.

After personal review of the project information and concerns that were voiced, it was agreed that there was a real perception among citizens that Public Works was forcing the project and it was determined that a final recommendation on the diverter to Council should be delayed. In the last month, after talking with the City Transportation Committee, several residents, District Council representatives, and project advocates, we have found that there is misinformation and misunderstanding about the project inception and purpose and an openness to re-evaluate other options previously discussed and dismissed.

To regain faith in the process, Public Works has agreed to revisit the Jefferson Project from Mississippi River Boulevard to Snelling. We have specifically provided formal invitations to residents who live two blocks either side of Jefferson. At the meeting, the status of the project, the proposed meeting schedules, and the intended timelines will be made available. Our goal is to have everyone understand what is happening and when.

Process:

Once all public meetings have occurred, the staff recommendation will go through the standard City process of a hearing before the Transportation Committee, the Planning Commission and finally to the City Council. All of which provide further opportunity for formal public input.

Commitment:

My commitment to you is that the process will be open and transparent. The process will be clearly understandable and ordinary. The website www.stpaul.gov/jefferson will be up-to-date with the latest information on the project and will contain an online method for public input. Please bookmark and visit frequently.

I want to thank everyone for your passion during this process. It is that passion that will help Saint Paul reach its goal of being "the most livable City in America."

John P. Maczko, PE, P.T.O.E. City Engineer